

Interview with Craig Day
Conducted by Linda Byrne for the
Providence District History Project Providence Perspective

Linda: Today is July 25, 2007 and it's about 5 O'clock in the afternoon, I am here with Craig Day and the purpose of this interview is a look back for Providence District. And let's start with you Craig – if you would tell me a little about yourself – where you were born.

Craig: Well I was born in Wilmington, Delaware back in 1959. We moved to Coralain Garden Apts. next to Jefferson Library in 1963 and at that time it was definitely a suburban bedroom community; Lohman's Plaza was not even built. I grew up in that community, Broyhill Park Community, Lohman's Plaza Community all through elementary Junior high and high school. And pretty much I grew up in the zip code 22042 even before there was a 22042. I went to Falls Church High School. I went to Pine Spring Elementary then the districts were changed and I went to Warner Hill Elementary. Junior high I went to Woodier and then Falls Church High and graduated in 1977. So I have pretty much lived in Providence District - except for my four years of living in Falls City in the mid 1980's - I have always lived, in fact, on the Chiles Tract which we will talk about a little bit later – this land which Fairview Park now owns. The Chiles family owned from 1928 on; which was originally the Dulin family farm 1300 acres from the 1750s.

My occupation is currently a geographer for the Defense Department, I got a Geography Degree from Virginia Tech mainly because of the land here and getting involved in planning, citizen participation and planning issues back in the day of Jean Packard and Jack Harrity being our Supervisors or the Chairmen of the Board back in the mid 70's.

And you have here – one of the questions that is suggested is what my fondest memory of living in Providence District. And I pondered that a lot today and two have come up to me and they have something to do with the woods, the woods right here at 495 and Rt. 50. And I can remember clearly two separate incidents; one when I was just out of college - a Tiger Swallow Tail landed on my shoulder when I was up by the Dulin house the

archeological the ruins we call it, the Dulin ruins, and this butterfly just landed right there on my shoulder and I was like wow. As a Christian I thought that was such a neat thing, a God thing. And then a few years later when they were digging, getting ready to develop the Fairview Park I remember just walking up there one sunny windy fall morning and I spooked a fox, a red fox, or actually he or she didn't know it was me because I had the sun; the wind was against me so he couldn't smell me and it could hardly hear me, cause the wind and the sun was such that it couldn't see me either because it was being blinded. But it was looking for me so it was looking up knowing something was up but couldn't see me but I could see it. It was only about 25 feet away and that was also on the Dulin site. So those are the two fond memories that just seem to stick out.

Linda: That's nice. Could you give me your address here?

Craig: Oh yeah, it is part of the Lakeford Community, Townhouse and Condo Community that is built on the Chiles Tract.

Linda: Could you tell me about your school years here in Providence District?

Craig: Well I mentioned my living in Coralain Garden Apartments. They originally in the early 60's bused us over to Pine Spring which is just nearby here. So I had two years second and third grade with Miss Peters and Mrs. Rubenstein as my second and third grade teachers, that was pretty neat. And then Districts change so Walnut Hill which is back behind Loehman's Plaza was my 4th, 5th and 6th grade. And those were neat years Mrs. Cabaum, Miss. Colman and Mrs. Dunbar were my teachers there. I got involved in sports when I was in 6th grade and hit my first home runs in Little League over at St. Phillips baseball field and also at Lee Graham which is no longer there any more Lee Graham baseball, corner of Lee Highway and Graham Road. But that was kind of neat our little league team Lion's Club were the champions of the American Little League coached by Mr. McNevin and it was fun years there.

Linda: What year would that have been?

Craig: That was 1971/72. Yes 72 that was the year of hurricane Agnes and it ruined our - for a week we had – we were all backed up in our schedules because it rained for those couple days and all the fields were soaked. I remember one of our coaches deciding to pour gasoline on the infield at Lee Graham because of the standing water and we just had to get our games going and they poured gasoline on the standing water and lit it (sound effect) and it took care it – it was kind of effective – maybe not be environmental but it was effective.

Linda: Tell me a little about your family, your parents and grandparents.

Craig: My dad's side the Day family came over in the 1750's to Wilmington, Delaware which is the town where I was born. Interestingly enough I was born in the community called Fairfax. The development was called Fairfax. Little did we know 3 years later my dad would pass away and so my mom would moved me and my brother up here to where her parents are in this area and we would live in Fairfax, Virginia. So the word Fairfax kind of followed me.

My mom's parents are from North Carolina and also from Philadelphia so a little bit of both north and south of the Mason Dixon.

Linda: Can you describe living in the area where you did shopping for clothing, groceries those kinds of things?

Craig: Since I am in my late 40's I didn't start shopping until maybe 40 years ago and at that time the big deal – we still had Blue Laws where you could not buy certain things on Sunday. I also remember enjoying looking at the ads at Dart Drugs and Track Auto when I was a kid because well when I was in high school I guess. Shopping was pretty much either at Seven Corner's. Tyson's hadn't been build until 69 – Tyson's Corner. So Seven Corner was the cool in place to be. Then, Tyson's came along and so you would shop either at Seven Corners or Tyson's. Best Products came in the mid seventies right at Gallows Road and near the Gold's Gym and that was always a big place. Best Products was the fore runner of Costco so it was pretty cool to go there. But really we had this Lohman's Plaza for me

since I had to bicycle to places. And shopping was not – the big deal was going to Tyson's Corner or Seven Corner's.

Linda: Would you tell me a little about the roads when you were riding your bike back then.

Craig: Well we did not have the W and OD Trail which is a wonderful asset now it wasn't developed until high school years. And the most important impact to me was Rt. 50, Arlington Blvd. Because that's how we could always get home or go anywhere; my mom was driving me someplace and that was four lanes divided. And we had a left hand turn that would take us from west bound 50 into Coralain Gardens; it's no longer there the highway department VDOT has taken it out all of those left hand turn lanes. But I remember my mom saying that we might become a grease spot here because traffic was so fast and trying to get across that to our apartment. That plus when Mel Par the old E- Systems which is now Raytheon that was the big employer in this little community. And at 5 O'clock at rush hour you had 15 minutes of no movement on Rt. 50 because the police were down there letting out, that was rush hour and they were letting out all those workers out of Mel Par. And then it was fine after that but there was definitely going to be a rush hour for a few minutes. And I remember Gallows Road and Lee Highway, well Gallows Road at 50 and Lee Highway it was actually Gallows Road – Route 50 was horrible until they widened it in the early 70's and then they widened it again thanks to the development of Fairfield Park. As part of the off site improvements were to grade separate the Gallows Road and 50 intersection. It finally worked for a few years. Now unfortunately we have all these - the Merrifield Towne Center or the density that's coming back first before the roads are widened and we are back to congestion again; so two thoughts.

Linda: Were there any amusements or what kind of childhood amusement kinds of things?

Craig: I do remember that at Loehman's Plaza the amusement would come every summer for a week. And you get the tilt a whirl, and the octopus, and the family fun house or the monster house. And then of course all the 25 cent or 10 cent games then. You know throwing balls onto saucers or

something. So that was pretty neat when that would come to town. In terms of really amusements I think my friends and I we just would go hike in the woods here. We would go to the creek to see what we would find and build dams, dam up the creek, a foot high and then just knock the dam down. I think bicycling – we only had to worry about sports little league was only in the spring. I don't think there was soccer and then you had fall football league; the beltway league. So it was a lot less organized less frantic maybe and I think people just hung around played in the neighborhood.

Linda: Did you have chores as a child?

Craig: Fortunately not really too much, I wasn't suppose to make a mess. I guess that was a chore – don't make a mess as opposed to clean up your mess. We lived in an apartment, my brother and I weren't too messy. There wasn't a lot; it wasn't like living in a house where you had to cut the grass and all that. So I didn't really have official chores; but I was pretty capitalistic. I was always trying to find a way to make a dollar. Anywhere from going to the trash rooms and getting everyone else's newspaper; and mom kindly driving me to the Alexandria scrap yard and we'd get 10 cents a hundred pounds or something for paper then. And you could collect scrap metal around the woods. There's always someone dumping something somewhere around here. There was scrap metal and bottles. The pretty thing was finding a returnable bottle cause you could get 10 cents for a big bottle I think you got 25 cents. So hunting for bottles on Saturday morning was a nice thing because that was a good source of money. And cutting grass as I got older; in the neighborhood and then I graduated to having a firewood business in Junior High School. I got my official license when I was in High School. And cut firewood and moved trees for about 8 years; and made some money off of that.

Linda: So you cut the wood and then delivered it?

Craig: Yes and at first I used my mom's car but then I got my own pick up truck. In fact I had permission from the owners of the Chiles Tract. Mr. Hansberger was the lawyer that got, sent me a letter giving me permission to cut anything standing or fallen as long as you don't hurt yourself. And my

mom signed and I signed it and we mailed it back and Mr. Hansberger is still around with Walsh Colucci. It's kind of a small world to run into him now and then; he remembers me from when I was a lot smaller.

Linda: What type of work did your mother do?

Craig: Mom stayed home. Mom, God bless her, she clipped coupons and volunteered at places, not for money. But she was able to stay home and keep us from burning down the apartment or something. My brother is 7 years older than I, but somehow and her parents were here to and that helped and we didn't want for anything. It was good that she was able to stay home.

Linda: What was medical care like during your growing up years?

Craig: I think it was pretty much as it is now. We are talking the 1960's, 1970's. Pretty much if you had a cold or something your mom would call a Doctor. Or if you fell and hit your knee and split it open then the ambulance would come and get you and take you to Fairfax Hospital. So it was pretty much, pretty much PPO, paid for providers.

Linda: What organizations have you belonged to over the years?

Craig: Wow, gosh, Northern Kiwanis's Little League, the Lions Club was our sponsor so I guess by default I am a Lions Club member. In the city of Falls Church I was able to co found a citizen organization called Citizen's Against off Track Betting parlors. We kept in 1990, 1992 we kept that initiative out of the city and out of Northern Virginia. My belief and my friend's were that type of economic activity did not belong in Northern Virginia. It would not aid the community's quality and so fortunately we kept it out over the years. People have not been able to get off Track Betting parlors. I was a co-founder of the Friends of the W&OD trail; we came together in 1989 to help fund the bicycle bridge over West Broad Street

Linda: How wonderful.

Craig: And we got built before a child was killed. They always build bridges after the fact. This time we got it before the fact. So I guess co founder of that – was pretty much the organizations I have been involved in.

Linda: Great. And you already talked about your fondest memory of the area.

Craig: Yes, the butterfly and the fox.

Linda: What was a typical day like at elementary school?

Craig: Wow, well I would have to go back to it being Walnut Hill Elementary and I going to figure 6th grade. So at that time I was riding my bike down from Coralain Garden's apartments to my friend's house on Zenith Court, Gary Wood. And then we would walk to school, another 3 or 4 blocks to Walnut hill. And I think, you know we would come home and either do our homework immediately or I would run home change clothes and then go back to the woods or go down. At that time we had metal detectors, so you know metal, treasure hunters metal detectors and so that was important to go out and see if we could find stuff. So that might have been one of the days that we would have went back out to the woods or up to the school and filter out trying to find a nickel or a civil war bullet or something. Before the medal detectors I think it would be just playing around the neighborhood playing touch footfall. I might come up here and just ride my bike up to my Coralain Gardens and ride around, with some friends mix some ball, Lisa Harris, play frizz bee just ride our bikes around or go to the pool, if the pool was open I'd go straight to the pool.

Linda: Did you eat lunch at the school cafeteria?

Craig: No, mom packed us a brown bag of fried bologna Oscar Meyer bologna with ketchup, or peanut butter and jelly with Lay's potato chips, Fritz, Lays, and a couple cookies or something, no apple, cause that wouldn't work. Of course you buy the milk; the milk was like 3 cents, 3 or 4 cents I think in a triangular shaped pack, it was an interesting pack. When the mystery was someone says if you save those tabs, they were valuable – we all saved tabs but we didn't know why. But we saved those tabs.

Linda: How did your family celebrate holidays?

Craig: Usually we would go to one or the other aunts or to the grandparents depending who had, but mainly we would to my Aunt Alice's over in Vienna. My grandmother moved out of her house in 1969 so we didn't get to go to her house but we would all go to one of the relative's houses for the different holidays or for a picnic or something depending on the season.

Linda: Could you describe what some of the places around here looked like before all of this growth and I don't know if this would be a good place to maybe start with your stories about the Chiles Tract.

Craig: Okay, we are at a good point. Yes, I was - in 1972 Mr. Chiles died and I was told by my friend C. Patrick – he gave me a letter that said announce the fact that there was a plan afoot to develop all of the land at 495 and Rt. 50. All 952 acres into either all houses, clear cut or possibly a Para mutual horse racing rink or maybe even the government, the new government location for Fairfax County Government. Well all of those things were just stunningly horrible for different reasons. And this is when I was in Junior High School, going into Junior High School and a budding environmentalist because 1969 was earth day, the first earth day. And so I got concerned and tried to get involved. Jim Scott was our Supervisor then Providence District and he for whatever reasons appointed me the student representative on the Chiles Tract task force. My thought early on was that this land needs to be saved as an urban forest; although I didn't know the term urban forest at that point. I was able to go to the Board of Supervisors in fall of 73, my freshman year in college- freshman year in high school not college and give my 5 minute report on why we need to save the Chiles Tract. And talk about the trees the forests and the history. Cause at that point we had old ruins we didn't know anything about the ruins we just that there were some old ruins there. Flora and Fauna was the reason. Well as the public process turned on throughout my high school years I became heavily, a high density heavily tree covered dense development we know as Fair View Park now. And I could see the Verizon building there the Marriott Building, CSC is there now. So there are still about seven buildings

sites left on the 495 and Rt. 50 development. But this was the major attempt of giving an increase density credits at the same time as having to keep surface tree cover. The Chiles Tract, the key history of it we would find out three years later in 1976, because the bicentennial Revolution Bicentennial of our Country. I was able to write to Richmond, I saw an ad in the paper saying that if you know of any historical ruins write to this department of archeology in Richmond. So I did that and I get a call from Mrs. Williams a teacher over at Marshall High School. Martha Williams who is a professional, she is a school teacher but she is also a trained Archeologist and worked with the County as a volunteer. Well she came out and her husband came out one cold fall and we looked out on the overgrown depressions and said yes I guess there is something. We started poking around and the next thing we know the county is digging the Dulin ruins and the Dulin ruins that digging would end up having the County hire Dave Johnson as the first County Archeologist. And that was the Plus program back then Planning and Land Use was the program. But the County Planning Department thanks to the Dulin Ruins ended up having, requiring a County archeologist and then eventually a pre historic archeologist too. I don't know if we still have him but anyway..

The Dulin family, as I was able to learn and research, digging in there but also others sharing information came over around the 1750's and this little site the owners that donated the land – the owners of the Dulin family here also gave land for the Dulin Church in Falls Church City, which was the slave church which is Crossland which is the non-slave Methodist Church was across from it.

Quick and fast history is there were Indians on the site; it was a well watered site upland in a hardwood forest. Lots of Indian head points can be found. After the Indian's left we had the Colonial period. So this was developed the Dulin's lived here and farmed here. The Dulin family had this land until the Civil War period and it was definitely a no man's land territory around here. After the Civil War the Dulins came back but then sold the land to the Campbell's and unfortunately 1898 came through and the U.S. Government needed a place to train soldiers for the Spanish American War. So the spring of 1898 they were upwards of 35,000 enlisted and 12,000 officers training all around the Merrifield, Dulin, Chiles Tract area here. And

that unfortunately damaged the productivity of the farm land erosion and everything after that. They were only here for three or four months but the land, the farm didn't come back.

Somewhere around 1926 Mr. Chiles Senior bought this land and would hold on to it through the 70's until his death. And he would only sell to high quality usages like Thomas Jefferson Library; the old triple A building which is across from Mobil, Falls Church High School, Loehman's Plaza which is around the peripheral. This was mainly an undeveloped tract by the time the 60's came around. In 1929 he had sold it to a company called Gallagher's who were going to develop it into the Strathmeet. This community where I live now at Lakeford was going to be a planned development with a golf course, with the whole clubhouse etc. And they started building and they got the clubhouse and the golf course in but guess what happened in 1929 - the depression and that financial venture failed.

There were two bridges that were on the lake area. One of the bridges halfway is still partially present, the abutment of the bridge from the 1929, 28 development. This land would stay idle until the late 70's early 80's when Fairview Park and the residential community here at Lakeford would be developed. So interesting, and Chiles bought it back because it was foreclosed. He apparently had enough money to buy the land back; so that's why, you know he sold it for the development that failed from the depression. He bought it back and held onto it and did pretty good. In fact I remember their talking about the land's value – it was \$1.5 million and that was big bucks in 1975 (oh, 25 million) and hundreds of millions now.

Linda: Where did Mr. Chiles make his money?

Craig: He was a schoolteacher; at least that is what I remember. One of his son's, Earl was maybe also a teacher also. I am confused now – I thought he was a teacher and one of the sons was a teacher also. And I ran into one of his son's at Duck, North Carolina about 10 years ago at the Duck United Methodist Church on Memorial Day. We were in the pew and I was there with friends from church at the beach house and he hands down you know how you hand down the pew the register and you go - Chiles, hum – you

know I knew a Chiles up in Falls Church. Oh, that was my father. And so we had great collections of reminiscings later. So small world story. So I think that that might be this – more particular that's kind of the history of the Chiles track and the development; you know it was a quick one. I wrote a paper in my senior year in high school "The Chiles Track through History" and got an A. Anyway there were lots of pictures lots of maps. And I went downtown to the National Archives and found pictures of an unidentified building, a house that there were 12 pictures of and it turned out that that was the Dulin house; which I have the painting behind my shoulder. That was the Dulin house, picture taken in 1930. It was called on Graham Road abandoned house. So we were able to show it to the archeologists and she was able to identify through the bonds and things, architectural clues and confirm that indeed that was the Dulin house. But that paper won I think a \$50 or second place with the Historical Society Contest that summer for Fairfax County Historical Society.

Linda: Do you still have a copy?

Craig: I still have a copy, there is a typed one at the Fairfax, or there should be one at the main Fairfax [library]. Mrs. Mattheisen has a copy too; she got a hold of a copy also. I have the original one graded and I think I had a friend type – you know we had to type it up.

Linda: Well you have kindly said that you would let us make a copy of your painting here of the Dulin house and perhaps you could take the paper in at the same time and they could make a copy of that. That would be a good idea.

Craig: Okay. We have three or four archeological crews over the summers digging at the site. And one of the kids, Eldridge he wrote all about the City of Canvas, about Camp Alger and he published that book. So there has been at least one formal book done on history of this land right here.

Linda: Tell me about the bricks.

Craig: Yes, well fortunately I bought an Isuzu Trooper in 1984 a four-wheel drive Isuzu Trooper. And about that time is when they started putting in the ring road at Fairview Park on the south side. And I was convinced that I wanted those bricks. I didn't want the bulldozer to tare them up and take them away, cause they are just all over – the sides and walls had fallen down and there were snakes – a little bite risky. But anyway I drove my truck up there one day before the bulldozers got to that section and just started loading up my truck. So I loaded up probably about 300 bricks total and they are about 2 pounds each something like that, three pounds each. But I have been hauling them around since 1984. And finally, finally I left a few a year ago I moved from a townhouse right up the street on New Providence Drive down to here; and I had to leave – I had made a nice Georgetown garden in front of my little town house and the guy did not want me to take my bricks. They look great and they are old. I left about 65 of them over there; but this is the last time I'm moving them because I have them here and I have about 50 of them outside my deck. These are big red bricks made on site. I have one brick that has a dog prints in. I have one brick that has a cat's print in it; but Mrs. Mattheisen's son had one that had a baby's and infant's foot print, and that's been lost to history now but it's kind of neat. These bricks are from the 1850 – the newer bigger section that my painting is.

Linda: That's great.

Craig: I also have out front a couple of the key stones. They had stone foundational walls and I have grabbed a couple of those major blocks just as a – from a keepsake.

Linda: Growing up here did you go to any movies, fast food restaurants – those kinds of things?

Craig: Oh yeah, I would ride my bike down to Annandale Road McDonalds that was the closest one and that was a long, for an elementary school kid that was a long road for a 15-cent hamburger but it taste good you were pretty hungry by the time you I got down there. But then we had at Loehman's Plaza a Roy Rogers. But I can't remember what it was before Roy Rogers. They started to blend together; I think it was a Pappy Parkers something before Roy Rogers. It's now McDonalds at Loehman's. We would do a lot of fast food but it was nice. I remember seeing my first movie I remember seeing as a kid was the Love Bug at the Jefferson Theater, Jefferson Village Theater that's now, well it is now burned. It use to be a Chiles but it had some fires the last few years. It was, I got to see the Love Bug there and they had a Herbie in the lobby there – actual VW and that's like 1967 maybe. But I think I saw Song of the South there also. That was a neat Disney movie. Of course I saw Star Wars at the State Theater in June of 77 that was – I went on my first date to that movie too. So that was neat.

Linda: Where was the Jefferson Theater located?

Craig: It is still there, its right next to the 31 flavors Annandale Road and 50. It's the big tall boxy building behind the front of the – I think it's more ethnic shops down there right now. But you can't miss it. It was one of the huge – one of the biggest theatres around at that time. No Loehman's Plaza had a theatre, that's right Loehman's Plaza two had – oh yes, I got to watch Loehman's Plaza be built. Both the first phase and then the second phase; second phase had twin theaters. That was pretty big – yes twin theatres. We didn't have multiplexes then, we had twin theatres; that was kind of neat. That was the size of one regular theatre.

Linda: Is there any major event that within your lifetime that has impacted you.

Craig: Oh, obviously my father's death when I was 3 ½. Dad's death would turn the world upside down. But by God's grace Romans 8:28 his favorite verse and my favorite "Everything works together for good for them who love God, for them who are called according to his purpose". So mom moved us up here; so I was a kid without a father. Both my brother and I stayed out of – we weren't delinquents. And by God's grace usually if you don't have a father and you are boys you get in trouble. He channeled his energies or his interest into electronics and was always building heath kits and soldering everything in the living room – all these different kits. And I was more of the athlete and involved in citizen issues or wanting to take up a just cause; wise development of the woods. I ended up having in high school if I may crow – I have the shot putt record still from Falls Church High School. It's pretty - all of a sudden 30 years ago – oh my goodness. But I do still coach over there at Falls Church High School because I want to be able to coach the kid that breaks my record.

Linda: That's great. Did you get an allowance is one of the questions on here but – you probably earned your own.

Craig: Yeah, I think I earned my own, I might ask mom for Good Humors. If the Good Humor guy came maybe I would ask can I have an ice cream cone. She would give me a quarter or something maybe; if I didn't have my own money. Mom still lives in the Coralain Garden Apartments, she is over there, she moved out and moved back before her, hopefully she will be finding a retirement community nearby soon, so she will be able to leave Coralain Gardens finally.

Linda: Great, can you think of any questions that I may have forgotten? Anything else you would like to talk about.

Craig: Well, just watching the - a density question. As a geographer and urban planner, I am not professionally an urban planner, but I have a degree in planning in urban affairs; and my experience is with planning and

as a keen observer of this suburban area, inner suburban area now, I believe that density is something I don't like and I think density is just not, I just don't, I personally don't like density and I see it creeping everywhere.

I remember in the 1970's I was told about sprawl. And everyone talked about sprawl and how bad it was – we had to stop sprawl. Well, I've come to the conclusion that the worst thing of sprawl – you can have horizontal sprawl or you can have vertical sprawl and I would rather have horizontal sprawl than I would have vertical sprawl because vertical sprawl means density and that's just – density is to me a cancer. It is just more and more packed into a given square foot. So anyway I have become a bit of a radical. I consider myself an environmentalist, but a practical one – I do not see any value in density living whether – high rises and human life I don't think co-exists. And I am a cancer survivor, five years ago I had colon cancer in my early forties and I now can say if I see something that reminds me of cancer I can speak to it with a little more authority, I guess.

As I watch these town centers go up especially Reston Towne Center, Balston and even now Merrifield; to me a town center has three or four or maybe five stories. But when you go out to Reston Towne Center you have 15, 20 tall story buildings. So I think it's a misnomer and I don't support density. I think it is better to have something more human scale. The ideas of paths and walking paths, and trees, and forest would be nice and they are expensive, but I don't believe having 20 story, 15 story, even 10 story buildings unless you have large shoulders of open area you are basically building a city. And I think we've kind of missed the boat. It might have been of good intention but I think we have just built too many, too much density on top of the one square unit of space. That's just a little observation from this kid.

Linda: Do you have a solution to so many people wanting to live in this area?

Craig: I guess it is the question of wanting or needing. I think it is great to

live close to your job. But does one have to. The way to make money around here is to rezone land. You know the more density, the more you can build on top or below a given unity of land and the more you can get a government body who has the authority to rezone something that's how you make new money. And I guess it must be hard to say no to people who own land or conglomerates or whatever; cause once you build a big building you get more big buildings. And if sprawl is horrible and if everybody said horrible things about the sprawling of Northern Virginia or the housing community on housing community I would rather see that than what I am seeing now and with the trend cause you can't stop hi rises. Cause, you look in Falls Church City the first one The Bryan was five stories and the next one that came was seven and then eight and it just continues.

It is hard to have fine politicians, elected representatives that have the will to say – we will give you 6 stories and no more. And if you don't like it Mr. and Mrs. Developer go some place else. But if you have standards then I think you can still live with that. I don't see that will now. And we are all just drowning in traffic. And that's because our arteries don't, aren't working anymore for all the land use economic activities we have.

A friend reminded me that a muscle – when you keep on building up a muscle it doesn't have more cells, just the muscles you already have the muscle cells get bigger and surprisingly the arteries grow bigger to help support the – all the nutrients to the muscles. And if you don't if the arteries don't form you still get more muscle and you end up killing off the muscle cause you can't have more muscle without more arteries.

And roads, we need roads and it is just stunting that we can't, we are not allowing ourselves to have roads, yet we will develop and redevelop and continue to redevelop. To make a development - nodal developments on top of metro stations but yet you have parking garages for all the buildings – we haven't spent one cent on another lane of asphalt. And I think having good circulation is a healthy thing. And if it means another lane of asphalt

for good circulation and not crowded that's okay with me. If you are going to put the current 15 story building there. Otherwise don't put the 15 story building, even leave or have the existing road network. Seems like we have decided that mass transit is the end all. And that's the key unless we want to live like Eastern Europeans very dense or South Koreans in some high rise megalopolises. I think the trend is very, very the rich can hide away from these canyons. And, well I'm sounding pretty doom and gloom right now but we don't usually see a high rise torn down for something less dense. You know it is always the other way around. The little family house gets torn down for the townhouse or even for a bigger house. It use to be that apartments were the thing, no one wanted apartments living or being built (3 story apartments) next to their single family houses. Now we are building 10 story buildings next to single family houses. And supposedly that's a good thing someone is trying to tell us without widening the road it is sitting on.

So I encourage people to live close to their job. And maybe give tax credits in their property value to live close to their jobs so they don't have to commute so much. I really think the idea of having not rezoning land to be denser and denser – it just begets more density and more value because there is more valuable land so you have to build denser. And it's a viscous cycle that I don't think is helpful for healthy communities and less stressed people.

Thank you for letting me say all that.

Linda: Now is there anything else we have not covered that would be good for this?

Craig: Wow - I think it is great that we have a chance to grab these histories. It would be quite a blessing, I don't have any children or anything but for future historians to be able to know hey we did live here and we cared about our environment, we are Americans, and we've been a democratic form of government. This is the local form of government; local politics is what it's all about - what starts here. And I was encouraged to be involved from an early age by both democratic elected supervisors Jim Scott, Tom Davis, Jack Herrity, Jean Packard, Kate also; Kate Hanley, Gerry

and I don't know Linda Smyth too well yet. So have been able to get along no matter what your politics, what's good for the local community. And they have encouraged citizen participation since I was just a little wee lad in Junior High School. And I am thankful that they didn't just blow me away; they encouraged it. And it has been helpful since I have contributed and I have been happy to be involved.

Linda: What College did you go to?

Craig: Virginia Tech. That's where most everybody went in the early 80's late 70's. It was the place to go. It wasn't Ivy League but it wasn't – you got out what you put in. In fact I was so pleased and proud of how the kids acted. God had me go down the Friday after the shooting in April just to - you know everyone was a hokie that week and the following weeks. Just to listen and see freshmen who had been there that day or upper classmen, people were just downright – there was a spirit of family and I think God's grace was there to help people mourn together and walk along together. I am very pleased; I look forward to seeing those leaders that come out of that class and the following classes of 2007, 8, 9 and 10 and see who comes out of that period that helps lead this Country.

Linda: And you are talking about the recent shooting at Blacksburg.

Craig: Yes, one person who was filled with evil or hate and evil. And that had impact. I don't know if we had anyone from Providence, yes maybe the woman from the western part of – Chantilly, yes maybe we did have a child or two from Providence that was shot. I don't remember where our boundaries are out further west.

Linda: I think you are correct, I'm not quite sure if it is the Providence District of today or the Providence District boundary from yesterday. But, yes and my son knew two of the girls that were killed there.

Craig: And what were their names – Indian or middle eastern.

Linda: One was an African American girl and the other was Caucasian.

Craig: Okay, there was this name and I can't believe I can't remember her name but a friend's daughter also knew. I am sorry and I hope, gosh - On a good note God is in control and amen in the name of Christ.

Linda: Well if you have anything else to add.

Craig: I'll be glad to share the painting and pictures and who knows I have bottles and things also that maybe someday will find a good home.

Linda: Well we have the new library in Oakton that's going to be opening on Sept 29th at 10 O'clock in the morning on a Saturday. And this will be the first Library in Providence District. Under its current boundaries Providence did not have a library, there were two that were just over the line, they had changed the line, and so this will be the first Library. It also is the first Library where a developer donated the land for the Library; which was a first.

Craig: May I on that, you have just given me one more idea; or two actually. One is Tom Davis appointed me as Tree Commissioner. When the boundary shifted back and forth I was still living at Coralain Garden apartments and so got home from college and Tom said well, I don't know how he knew me, I guess he knew me from speaking about the Chiles Tract. And so he invited me to be a Tree Commissioner because I had written a paper in college called "Urban Forestry and the Social and Environmental benefits of Urban Forests". And I did some research around the families that lived around this large tract of land. Again the Chiles Tract affecting me. And so he put me on the Tree Commission for a couple of years and then the boundaries shifted again or something so it was out of his district and back into Providence. So it went from Mason to Providence or Providence, Mason, Providence. That was the first under the different organizations I was involved in – Tree Commissioner – I was a Tree Commissioner and I was honored by that – Wow cause it's important to me.

Linda: Would that paper be available that we could have a copy of that one?

Craig: Which one?

Linda: The college one as well.

Craig: Yes, we can do that. I have, I was very proud of that – I came up with the term Urban Forestry. My Company, my firewood company was called Urban Tree Management; and I came up with that in the late 70's – that term and had a license and everything from the County, paid my taxes. And so when I learned that there was a science called Urban Forestry - Wow – surprise.

The other thing is a coin story. When I found the bricks that was one thing I was being chased by the bulldozers so to speak. Well even more, that was before the bulldozers, they were in the area but not at the site. So I am with my metal detector probably 1984 again right near the ruins and I am just poking along because the bulldozers are all around me. They are doing their thing and I just want to get the last second to search and find. I have always wanted to find a coin. I always wanted to find gold, never found gold. But I always wanted to find a coin, an old coin up there. I had found Indian heads and things like that but that's only from 1900's really 1900's or something. Well, there it was beep – dug it up, pulled it out of the dry sand the loam, not dry sand, soil, and the old loam and I knocked it over. What is the big copper, you know like a large cent. Wow, what is that and I am trying to see it, see what it is because it is really worn. A hay penny, it's a half penny. It's English, its 17 something something. I couldn't read what it was. And that coin for the first seven years was on display in the CSC building; cause Martha Williams and I developed a display case with the history the four phases of the history of the Dulin site from the Indians all the way up to modern day. And that coin I finally retrieved because I didn't know, well it was my property – it started getting a little tattered at the display, so I took it. But that would be the other story.

I went to college – Jim Scott and all of us had proffered the developers Fairview Park, Cadillac Fairview; we had proffered a half acre for the ruins the Chiles Tract Ruins. They were going to redevelop that – it was going to be a vest pocket park. And so I went to college in the fall of 77 thinking that was taken care of. By the time I came back in 81 the proffer of the vest

pocket park that would be archeologically dug and be interpreted for everyone to see went from that to a display case, a 3 foot by 3 foot display case. Don't know how it happened. Jim Scott – kind of fuzzy you know I was stunned when what I thought was going to be a park on the rebuilt Dulin site went to a display case.

So it taught me you have to, as a citizen you have to stay every phase of anything working its way thru politics and thru the governmental process. That's why the bicycle bridge is such a tribute to citizen's involvement because I was leading the charge but as all the citizens had to support it – that's why it is called Citizens S Apostrophe Bridge not apostrophe s bridge. It's all the citizens supporting it; but we had to go thru every step because there was always somewhere it could either be accidentally or intentionally – and I can't imagine the Federal programs and Congress and parliamentary procedures and this and this and this. I am glad it works but. So those are the two stories.

Linda: Oh good I am glad you remembered those. Okay I will stop the interview there.